



## SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES MONEY FOR AREA CHILDREN

**HICKORY --** The Christmas for Children Golf Tournament recently raised more than \$8,000 and 150 toys for local children in need.

The Backpack Program, which provides a backpack of nutritious food to Catawba County school children in need each school weekend, received \$4,160. The Kids in Need Fund at Newton-Conover Schools received \$4,600. The Conover Cops for Kids Program received 150 toys for distribution to local children.

The annual golf tournament is co-sponsored by DLT Golf, Rock Barn Ladies Golf Association and the Rock Barn Golf and Spa. This year, 150 golfers participated. Several Kohls store employees volunteered at the tournament, resulting in a donation of \$500 to The Backpack Program from Kohls Cares. DLT Golf is a year-round donor to The Backpack Program.

The Backpack Program operates throughout the school year to provide supplemental food to school children who may be experiencing food insecurity. The parents apply for the program, and the participants are selected by school counselors.

All food and labor for the Backpack Program is donated. During Fiscal Year 2011-2012, the Backpack Program provided 236,849 meals to 1,004 school children in need. Volunteers spent 2,856 hours packing the food and delivering it to students.

This program is a collaboration between Catawba County Social Services, Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, BB&T, area churches, schools, businesses, civic clubs and individuals. To find out how you or your organization can help, go to <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/Backpack>, or call Amanda Freeland, program coordinator at 828-695-5648.

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